Master Grazer Educational Program- 3rd quarterly report 2012

Advanced Grazing School

- The first Advanced Grazing School was held on July 10, 2012 at the C. Oran Little Research Center in Versailles, KY. This one-day course was designed for those who had participated in a previous grazing program and was meant to be used as a refresher course and to go more in-depth on important forage and animal topics.
- Topics, tours, and demonstrations included: health considerations for the grazing ruminant (focus on pinkeye), summer annual forage options, grazing corn and bermudagrass, benefits of new tall fescue varieties, management tools for grazing tall fescue, benefits and limitations of herbicide use in pastures, ultra-high density grazing, and managing current drought conditions and high feed prices.
- 71 participants representing 4 states and over 30 KY counties attended this program. Many surveyed participants indicated intentions to make changes to better their current forage and livestock production as a result of the program. Some intended changes include improvements to water systems, use of summer annuals, stockpiling forages for winter feed, seeding novel endophyte infected tall fescue varieties, and improved techniques for weed control.

Regional Grazing Networks

- The Northern KY Network’s held its 4th in a series of 5 pasture walks on July 24th. Local agents emphasized options for summer and fall grazing including parasite control, warm-season forages, and stockpiling tall fescue. The last pasture walk for the 2012 grazing season, which was held on August 21st, focused on preparing producers for winter with topics such as hay storage, mud control, and winter feeding or sacrifice areas. This network has discussed the possibility of holding a fall field day to wrap up the pasture walk series.
- The Western KY Network will hold its last in a series of 3 pasture walks on September 26th. Topics will include nutrient management and the use of clovers as forage.

Fall KY Grazing School

- The fall grazing school will be held on September 11-12, 2012 at the Woodford County Extension Office and the C. Oran Little Research Center in Versailles, KY.

Grazing News Newsletter

- Nine monthly issues of the Grazing News have been published thus far in the 2012 grazing season.
- The newsletter is sent electronically to all agriculture extension agents as well as 110 listserv subscribers. Hard copies are mailed out to 77 producers who have requested printed copies.